

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chairman

Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Vice-Chairman

Douglas Arnold

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Sarah Kraeger, Director, Newport County Regional Special Education

Gina Augustus, Finance Director, Newport County Regional Special Ed.

Shawn Brown, Town Administrator

Robert Sylvia, Town Council President

Lynne Dible, Finance Director

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 5:12 p.m. by Mrs. Spengler. Administrative staff member present was Gail Abromitis.

Ms. Sarah Kraeger, Director, Newport County Regional Special Education, updated the committee on the program. Middletown, Little Compton, Tiverton, and Portsmouth are part of the regional program. Portsmouth will withdraw from the program as of June 30, 2015.

Students are eligible to receive special education services from age 3-21 under 14 different categories. Part of the Individual Education Plan process is looking at how services are provided.

There are services that were provided out-of-district that are now at our schools; AM/PM preschool at Aquidneck School, Elementary Behavior Support Program at Aquidneck School and Gaudet Middle School RI, Alternate Assessment classes at Gaudet School, and 2 high school alternate assessment/transition classes.

Savings and cost reduction efforts include adjusting the staffing plan, looking at Medicaid reimbursement, additional training and professional development to decrease some contract services.

The next steps are to conduct a review of all out-of-district placements and track programmatic and financial changes, meet with principals to review current service delivery models, review the financial analysis of cost sharing, and review referral analysis.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie Simeone DiPalma. To adjourn from the Budget Workshop at 6:10 p.m. Unanimous vote.

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The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mrs. Theresa Spengler. Administrative staff members present were Linda Beaupre, Michelle Fonseca, Donna Chelf, Andy Longo, and Gail Abromitis.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Gaudet Robotics”

Mr. Joshua Beagan, Pre-Engineering/Technology Teacher at Gaudet School updated the committee on the Gaudet Robotics Team. Mr. Glen Sugawara is the Assistant Coach. The name of the team is “Gaudet Science Laboratories”. There are ten students on the team. The team took first place in robot performance at R.I. First Lego League Championships and First Place in Core Values. The team created an app to help ELL students pronounce sounds.

The team has been asked to present to at the First Lego League

Global Innovation Challenge and has been invited to the Razorback Invitational Competition in Arkansas. This is an international competition with over 64 teams from all over the world.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- Gaudet Robotics Team**
- MHS Football State Champions - Coach Bell and Coach Kestler attended the meeting. This year's team had two All-State players, ten All-Division players, and a quarterback named to the "Golden Dozen", which are the top 12 student athletes in the State.**

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No "Student Activities" for February 12, 2015.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Update on litigation**
- COZ Newsletter**
- Aquidneck School Newsletter**
- Donation to support Model United Nations Team**
- Update on February vacation survey**

•WAVE

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CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for February 12, 2015.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

•Approval of Minutes of the following minutes:

- December 15, 2014 Town Council/School Committee Meeting**
- January 6, 2015 Special Meeting with Middletown Town Council**
- January 14, 2015 School Committee Meeting and Executive Session**
- January 20, 2015 Special Meeting with Middletown Town Council**

•Approval of Quarterly Report

•Approval of the following vouchers:

Voucher Summary-January 2015

Voucher Number Date Total

1243 1/6/2015 \$20,078.88

1242 1/6/2015 \$310,281.14

1226 1/7/2015 \$4,917.45

1225 1/7/2015 \$3,652.60

1224 1/7/2015 \$4,415.85

1223 1/7/2015 \$6,855.73

1237 1/8/2015 \$129,882.08

1240 1/13/2015 \$70,669.45

1239 1/13/2015 \$382.23

1238 1/13/2015 \$4,505.09

1246 1/14/2015 \$3,738.92

1245 1/14/2015 \$1,360.88

1244 1/14/2015 \$34,410.81

1241 1/14/2015 \$70,287.86

1255 1/23/2015 \$369,221.91

1257 1/26/2015 \$422.20

1256 1/26/2015 \$13,962.33

Total \$1,049,045.41

•Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

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SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT AS OF DECEMBER 23, 2014

Steven Apostolov French Teacher, Middletown High School (One Year Only)

APPOINTMENT OF MOST AFTER SCHOOL INTERVENTION TEACHERS AS OF JANUARY 27, 2015

Luis Oliveira ELL, Middletown High School

Gail Sullivan McCune ELL, Middletown High School

Michele Smith ELL, Middletown High School

John Cunic Literacy, Middletown High School

Megan Sparadeo Literacy, Middletown High School

Grainne Phelps Literacy, Middletown High School

Cassandra Donoian ELL, J.H. Gaudet School

Paula Guarino ELL, J.H. Gaudet School

Ashley Yanick ELL, J.H. Gaudet School

Rick Taylor ELL, J.H. Gaudet School

Meredith Benvenuto Literacy, J.H. Gaudet School

Elaine Albanese Literacy, J.H. Gaudet School

Brittney Schuchmann Literacy, Aquidneck School

Leslie Gilman Literacy, Aquidneck School

Erin Doorley Literacy, Aquidneck School
Deb Prentiss Literacy, Aquidneck School
Anne Coogan Literacy, Aquidneck School
Cathy Palkovic Literacy, Aquidneck School
Lori Call Literacy, Aquidneck School
Cynthia Weininger Math, Aquidneck School
Jen Pesare Literacy, Forest Avenue School
Tara Mellow Literacy, Forest Avenue School
Kim Smith Literacy, Forest Avenue School
Taylor O'Connor Literacy, Forest Avenue School
Renee Fagan Math, Forest Avenue School

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 13, 2015

Sonya Silvia Data Support Teacher Assistant

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE MARCH 6, 2015

Tara Mellow Change to Grade One Teacher, Aquidneck School, from Forest Avenue School, Grade Two

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**APPOINTMENT OF VOLUNTEER WINTER COACH EFFECTIVE
FEBRUARY 12, 2015**

Zachary Yates Volunteer Basketball Coach

APPOINTMENT OF SPRING COACHES EFFECTIVE MARCH 16, 2015

Chuck Paiva Varsity Baseball Coach

Anthony Geer 6/7/8th Grade Baseball Coach

Robin Ramey Varsity Fast Pitch Softball Coach

Christine Elliott Assistant Varsity Fast Pitch Softball Coach

Jesse Alvanes Junior Varsity Fast Pitch Softball Coach

Keith Holubesco 6/7/8th Grade Fast Pitch Softball Coach

Bill Waterman Varsity Girls' Lacrosse Coach

Richard Formica Varsity Boys' Lacrosse Coach

Robb Weaver Assistant Varsity Boys' Lacrosse Coach

Kristen Seyster Varsity Boys' & Girls' Outdoor Track Coach

Christian LeBlanc Assistant Varsity Boys' Outdoor Track Coach

Lisa O'Brien Varsity Golf Coach

Barry Clark Volunteer Golf Coach

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 27, 2015

Jillian Kitson Grade 8 Social Studies Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE MARCH 6, 2015

Laura Pasyanos Grade One Teacher, Aquidneck School

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Christopher Sisson Elementary Librarian

Susan Roque Special Education, Middletown High School

Claire Johnson Music Teacher

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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ACTION ITEMS

REDUCTION IN FORCE

MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the Superintendent's Report be accepted and adopted and the necessary letters sent out. Unanimous vote.

R.I. law requires that teachers be notified by March 1st if their contract will not be renewed due to performance based reasons.

MHS PROGRAM OF STUDIES

MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the revised MHS Program of Studies for 2015-2016. Unanimous vote.

Principal Gail Abromitis, Assistant Principal Andy Longo, and Directors Chris Richards, Kevin Zahm, and Luis Oliveira reported on the changes to the Program of Studies.

There are only a few changes to the Humanities Department, mostly taking out the word “Grade Span Expectation”. Changes to Math, Science, and PE course descriptions will make them more student friendly. PE and Health will be renamed Health I and II. A course description for AP Environmental Science will be added. There will be no changes in Music and World Languages. For Visual Arts, Painting will move from grades 9-12 to 10-12. The wording of the Drawing course will change from “topics will include” to “topics may include”. For Applied Arts, CAD and CAD B have been deleted. This is covered in Intro to Engineering through Project Lead The Way.

Mrs. Kraeger said that the marketing piece needs to get out to the parents and community. It was also suggested that a mini-program of studies at be adopted at the Middle School.

SPONSORSHIP RESOLUTION

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Sponsorship Program Resolution. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger has met with Councilman Lombardi. The Town will adopt the resolution at the next meeting. The school department will adopt an “Advertising and Business Sponsorship” policy.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 14-15-15. Unanimous vote.

COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS POLICY – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Collective Commitments Policy – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

There are Collective Commitments for School Committee Members, Parents and Community, the Administrative Leadership Team, Certified Staff, Support Staff, and Students.

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ASSESSMENT POLICY – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Assessment Policy – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

Because of accountability in State testing, it has been recommended by the R.I. Department of Education that School Committee's adopt a Student Assessment Policy. By law, students are required to take the test.

TEN 80 CLUB ADVISOR POLICY – 1ST READING

MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Ten 80 Club Advisor Policy – 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

•Newport County Regional Special Education Program – This was covered at the Budget Workshop.

NEW BUSINESS

•Athletic Hall of Fame Display – The Board of the Athletic Hall of Fame members asked if a new display could be put in place to make

trophy/awards more visible. The current display case is 5 feet deep and you cannot read items that are in the back. Mr. Arnold said that he received an estimate of \$1700. To have our maintenance staff construct the display, it would cost \$1,000 for the glass alone. An ideal display would be about 6 feet long and 6-8 inches deep. It was suggested to check on-line school surplus sites and also see what kind of display is at J.F. Kennedy School.

•ALICE – A community meeting was held and not well attended.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

Financial – Ms. Pellerin reported that there was a school lunch profit of \$3,768 for the month of January. It is required by law to have a weighted average cost of school lunch at \$2.70 for next year. Middletown is below this number. Currently, the cost of lunch is \$2.50 for elementary, \$2.75 for middle school and high school. The surplus would pay for upgrades to the kitchen equipment.

Facilities – A candidate will be recommended at the next meeting.

MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

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REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

•Mrs. Fenton is on a Strategy Review Team at the R.I. Department of Education. They are working on career pathways at the Governors Workforce Board.

•Mrs. Spengler attended the R.I. Association of School Committees Chair Meeting. There was discussion by different districts regarding concerns about charter schools and the impact they have on district budgets.

The next School Committee Meeting will be on Monday February 23rd at 5:00 p.m. followed immediately by a Budget Workshop. This meeting will replace of the Thursday, February 26th meeting.

Mrs. Kraeger thanked the Facilities Department for the excellent job they have done with snow removal.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 6:40 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk